



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR


STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY  
LANSING



LIESL EICHLER CLARK  
DIRECTOR

VIA E-MAIL

TO: Members of the Michigan Legislature

FROM: Liesl Eichler Clark, Director 

DATE: March 23, 2022

SUBJECT: Report on Michigan Great Lakes Protection Fund

In accordance with Section 324.32910(1) of Part 329, Great Lakes Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (NREPA), attached is the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's (EGLE) report on the Michigan Great Lakes Protection Fund (MGLPF) for calendar year 2021. The MGLPF is a designated source of funding to support projects that meet EGLE's strategic goals and that are consistent with Part 331, Regional Great Lakes Protection Fund, of the NREPA.

If you need further information, please contact Emily Finnell, Great Lakes Senior Advisor and Strategist, Office of the Great Lakes, at 517-599-1330; or you may contact me at 517-512-5992.

Attachment

cc/att: Kathryn Summers, Director, Senate Fiscal Agency  
Mary Ann Cleary, Director, House Fiscal Agency  
Chris Harkins, Director, State Budget Office  
George W. Cook, III, Legislative Affairs Director, Governor's Office  
Marc Rehmann, Policy Director, Governor's Office  
Ben Dawson, Senate Fiscal Agency  
Austin Scott, House Fiscal Agency  
Jacques McNeely, State Budget Office  
Zach Hendrix, State Budget Office  
Aaron B. Keatley, Chief Deputy Director, EGLE  
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Travis Boeskool, Legislative Liaison, EGLE  
Paul McDonald, EGLE  
Dale Shaw, EGLE  
Emily Finnell, EGLE  
Lisa Root, EGLE



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

## **Legislative Report**

# **MICHIGAN GREAT LAKES PROTECTION FUND REPORT**

**Report Period:**  
**Calendar Year 2021**

**Authority:**  
**Section 324.32910(1) of Part 329, Great Lakes Protection,**  
**of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act,**  
**1994 PA 451, as Amended**

The mission of the Michigan Great Lakes Protection Fund (MGLPF) is to provide funding for innovative research and demonstration projects that advance knowledge about Great Lakes ecosystems and their interactions with Michigan communities. Funded projects support and inform work to ensure a healthy environment, strong economy, and high quality of life for the people of Michigan. The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's Office of the Great Lakes (OGL) manages the MGLPF.

In calendar year 2021 the OGL awarded four grants under the MGLPF for a total of \$724,682.

1. The OGL awarded a \$50,000 grant to Grand Valley State University (GVSU) for Phase II of an initiative titled: From Students to Stewards: Fostering Great Lakes Literacy to Improve School Performance (FS2S). GVSU will pass through the full amount of this grant award to schools and other eligible education entities through a competitive process. This grant further advances the FS2S collaborative effort between the OGL and the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, and the MiSTEM Network. The initiative started in 2018 and integrates Great Lakes literacy principles into K-12 education through continuous school improvement plans.

The MiSTEM Network selected GVSU to be the project's eligible fiscal agent as part of its existing, formal role supporting the Greater West Michigan Region of the MiSTEM Network. This function is required to enable the MiSTEM Network to provide in-kind and/or financial support to this project. GVSU was chosen according to the MiSTEM Network and MDE's selection criteria.

2. The OGL awarded a \$349,808 grant to Michigan State University for the project titled: Institutional Controls for Groundwater Management: Long-term Costs and their Impacts for Policy. This grant is the result of a competitive Request for Proposals launched by the OGL in 2020 to support an economic study and case study analysis of the use of institutional controls to manage groundwater contamination. Institutional controls and other land or resource use restrictions have become a common mechanism for managing risk associated with groundwater contamination since the passage of the NREPA and are currently in use at over 2,000 sites across the state.
3. The OGL awarded a \$99,997 grant to Michigan Technological University (Michigan Tech) for Phase II for a project titled: Smart Ships Coalition and Marine Autonomy Research Site Development. This project will build upon the Phase I goals of launching the Smart Ships Coalition (SSC) and establishing the Marine Autonomous Research Site (MARS) testbed, a marine technology and autonomous vehicle test facility located on Lake Superior. Michigan Tech's Great Lakes Research Center is collaborating with the OGL to advance the Great Lakes region as a hub for marine technology, industry, trade, and education and

support implementation of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers Regional Maritime Strategy.

As a leader in the application, testing, and development of autonomous marine technologies and STEM education and workforce development, Michigan Tech is uniquely and strategically positioned to coordinate multi-sector partners through the ongoing development and administration of the SSC and oversee operation of the MARS. The Phase II work plan and goals will prioritize engaging SSC membership in both virtual and in-person forums, leading the formation of SSC working groups, and developing a sustainability model to support future work.

4. The OGL awarded a \$224,877 grant to The Regents of the University of Michigan (U of M) to support an integrated assessment research project through Michigan Sea Grant's Integrated Assessment Research Program. The project will develop a Water User Committee (WUC) User's Manual and convene one or more WUCs as case studies to identify and implement voluntary agreements to collectively reduce water use in an area where there is potential for an adverse resource impact. The U of M will co-fund this project by contributing \$75,000 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Michigan Sea Grant Network to develop the manual and conduct a series of case studies. The Michigan Sea Grant administered the competitive Request for Proposals process in 2021 through their established Integrated Assessment Research Program. A grant award is pending NOAA approval. This grant will support implementation of a recommendation from the 2020 Water Use Advisory Council legislative report.

#	Grantee	Title	County	Grant \$
1	Grand Valley State University	From Students to Stewards: Fostering Great Lakes Literacy to Improve School Performance, Phase II	Ottawa	\$50,000
2	Michigan State University	Institutional Controls for Groundwater Management: Long-term Costs and their Impacts for Policy	Ingham	\$349,808
3	Michigan Technological University	Smart Ships Coalition and Marine Autonomy Research Site Development, Phase II	Houghton	\$99,997
4	The Regents of the University of Michigan (Michigan Sea Grant)	Water User Committee User's Manual Integrated Assessment Project	Washtenaw	\$224,877